

HEROES

CHAPTER 44

Golden Handshake An American in Paris

Part 2 of 4

Before Noah Bennet, Claude, the invisible agent for the company, partnered with a different man: Haram. Together, they trailed Fusor, an elusive killer with a withering touch. Haram had a grudge against Fusor, who had escaped Haram several times in the past. Haram, unfortunately, found the tables turned on him when Fusor laid a deadly trap for the company men...

GOLDEN HANDSHAKE

Part
2 of 4 **AN
AMERICAN
IN PARIS**

STATUS REPORT:
Location: Côte d'Azur
- UPDATE.

Subject Rollo Fusor took
two hostages. Haram moved
in to rescue; I circled to
intercept Fusor's escape.

STEVEN T. SEAGLE & DUNCAN ROULEAU *Story* TOM GRUMMETT *Art* CHRIS SOTOMAYOR *Colors* COMICRAFT *Lettering* An INVISIBLE COLLEGE Production

On arrival, one hostage
dead - dehydrated -
the other - a decoy who
attempted to murder Haram.

SKRUSH

I was forced to
chose between
Fusor's capture and
my partner's life.

This should in no
way be recorded
as another field
loss for Haram,
though.

If our roles were
reversed things would
probably have turned out
the same... probably.



Will follow new intel and track Fusor in Paris.

IRONIC, HUH?
FUSOR WAS MY *FIRST*
CASE -- ELEVEN YEARS
AGO -- AND I
BOTCHED IT --

NOW HE'S
MY *LAST* CASE
AND I BOTCHED
IT AGAIN.



I HAVE
NIGHTMARES
ABOUT HIM, YOU
KNOW?

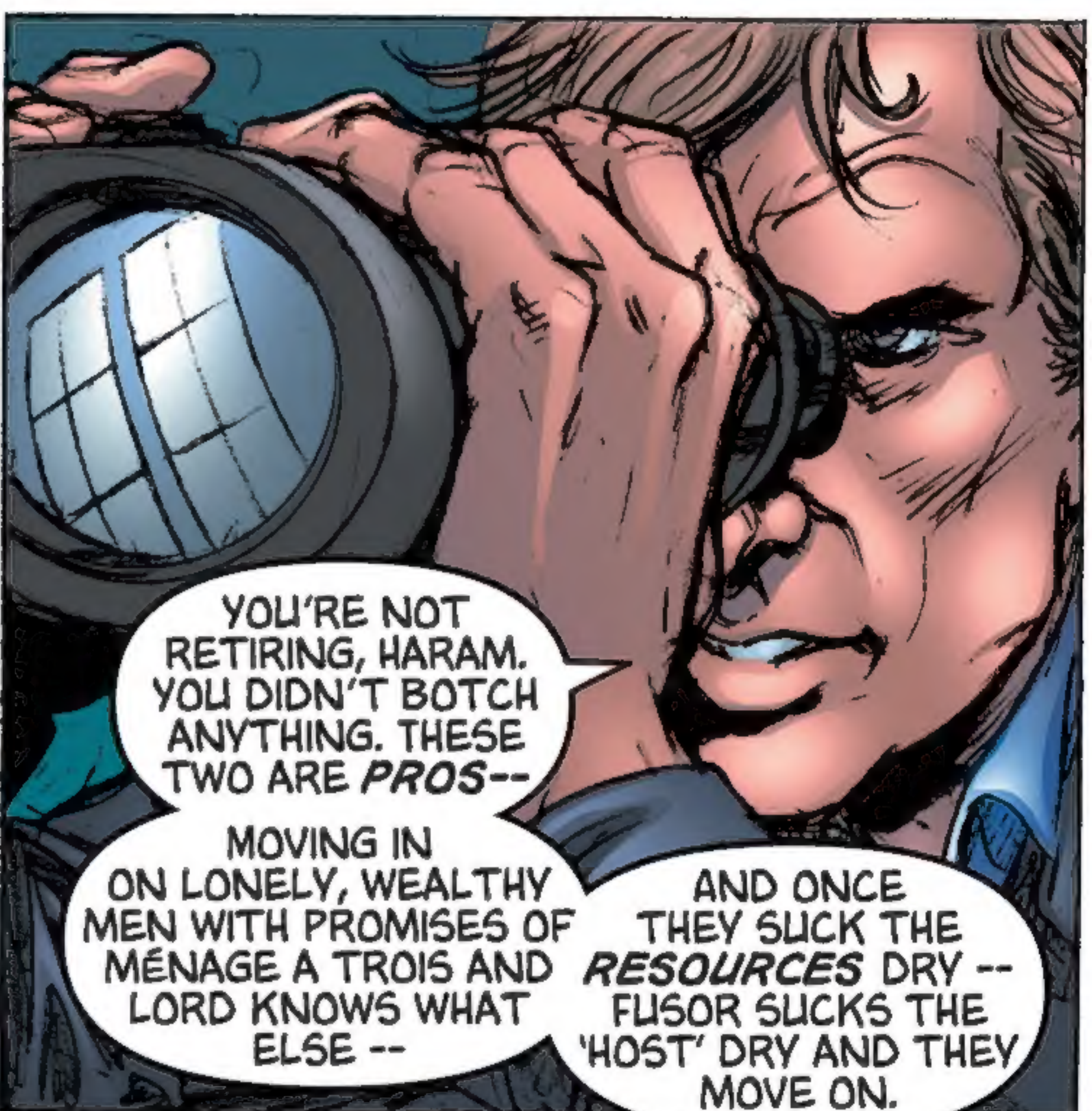
I FOUGHT IN
THE GULF -- I'VE
SEEN SOME STUFF.
BUT SUCKING THE
WATER OUT OF
PEOPLE...?

I WANNA
GET THIS
CREEP SO I
CAN *SLEEP*
AGAIN.



CLAUDE,
WHEN I RETIRE
AFTER THIS --

YOU CAN
BET THAT'S
MY NUMBER
ONE PRIORITY --
LONG, PERFECT,
SLEEP.



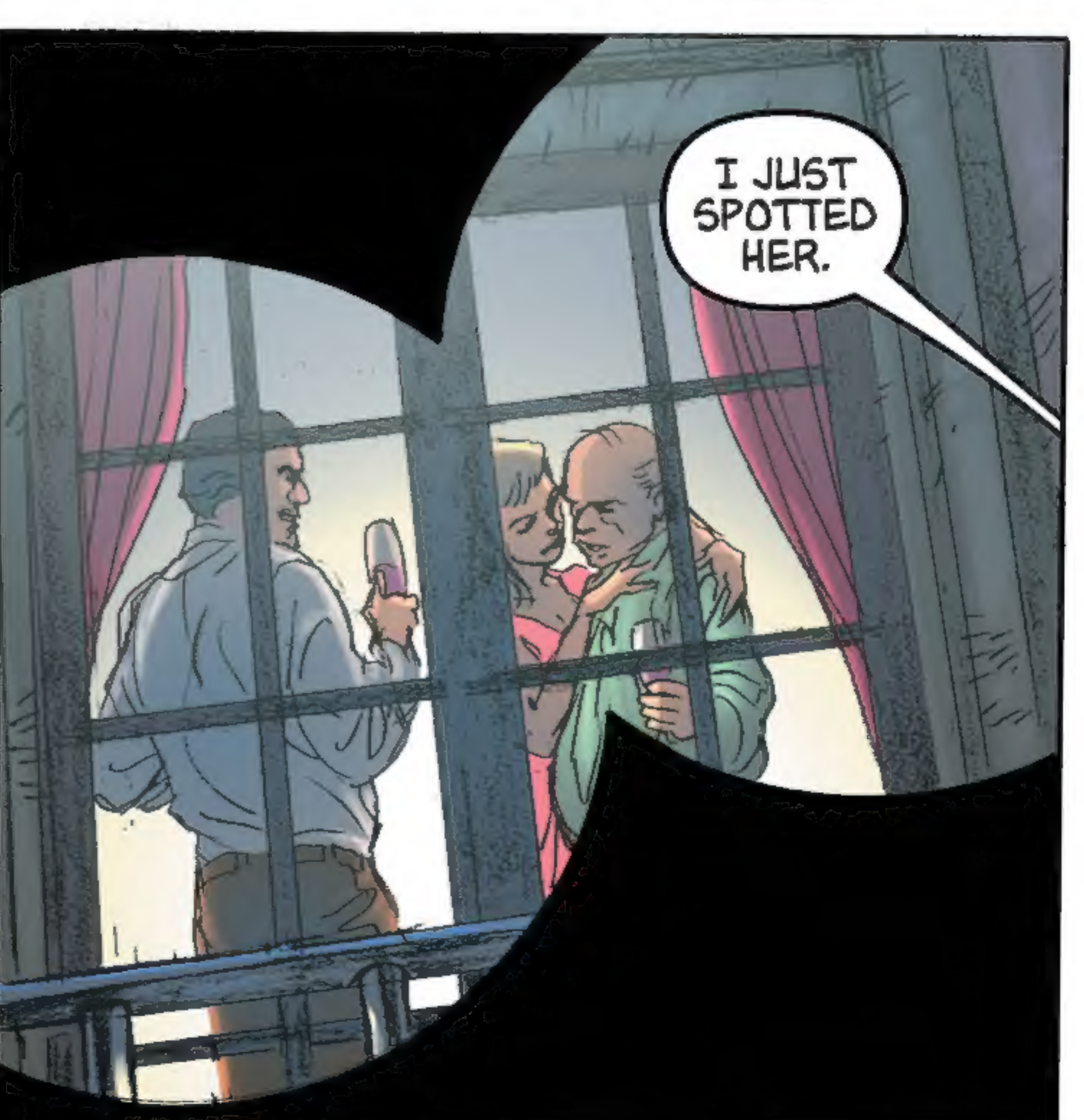
YOU'RE NOT
RETIRED, HARAM.
YOU DIDN'T BOTCH
ANYTHING. THESE
TWO ARE *PROS*--

MOVING IN
ON LONELY, WEALTHY
MEN WITH PROMISES OF
MÉNAGE À TROIS AND
LORD KNOWS WHAT
ELSE --

AND ONCE
THEY SUCK THE
RESOURCES DRY --
FUSOR SUCKS THE
'HOST' DRY AND THEY
MOVE ON.



THERE'S NO
TELLING HOW LONG
FUSOR'S ACCOMPLICE
WAS IN THERE FIRST.
NEITHER ONE OF US
SPOTTED HER --



I JUST
SPOTTED
HER.



THE COMPANY JUST MESSAGED.

AFTER REVIEWING THE RIVIERA EVIDENCE, THEY THINK FUSOR'S POWER ONLY WORKS ON ORGANIC MATTER, SO --



THEY 'THINK'?
'THINK' ISN'T GONNA KEEP ME FROM BEING FOSSILIZED.



AGREED, SO KEEPING OUR SKIN COVERED IS THE BACK-UP PLAN.

WHAT'S THE MAIN PLAN?



ON MY SIGNAL, WE ENTER, LOCATE FUSOR, TAKE OFF HIS HANDS, TOURNIQUET THE --

OFF?

OFF.



FUSOR FIRST, THEN THE GIR--

AAHHHHHHH!





'SKSSSH'?

'SKSSSH' ISN'T THE NOISE A FATAL CAVITY WOUND MAKES.



IT IS IF THE CAVITY IS DRY AS A BONE...

HOW THE HELL CAN THIS BE?

FRENCHIE AND FLISOR BOTH SUCKED DRY? BUT THAT MEANS --



FORGET THE BUTLER...

...IT'S ALWAYS THE GIRL.



SHE WASN'T HIS ACCOMPLICE.

HE WAS HERS ALL ALONG...



ROOF!
ROOOOF--!

To Be Continued...